

OLD VETERANS MEET.

A GRAND REUNION OF THE SIXTH SOUTH CAROLINA CAVALRY.

Patriotic Addresses by Senator Gordon, Col. Armstrong, Col. Miller and others.

Gen. Butler as Master of Ceremonies.

The Procession and the Barbecue.

CHEERING FOR GORDON.

GREENWOOD, S. C., July 4.—Under the Greenwood tree the old veterans of the Sixth Regiment, South Carolina Cavalry, today glorified and listened to inspiring counsel from well-known orators, ex-brothers in arms. From town and city, from field and farm, from hill and dale, they came—the high and the lowly, the halt, the lame and the blind, sad remnants of horrent war—to meet once more the men with whom they had stood side by side through the tempestuous battle, until the thoroughfares of the little town were packed and jammed with the 6,000 or 7,000 persons that gathered here on this 115th anniversary of American freedom.

There is still magic in the memory of those days when these heroes—some of them unkneaded, unconfined, unknown—bared their breasts in defense of their cause. The Confederacy is still a name to conjure with, though not to arise. It is recalled but the announcement that they were to see each other again and to hear some of their old leaders address them to bring them trooping to the scene—these warriors of more than Spartan courage and Swiss heroism. The like of this occasion has never before been known in Greenwood, and probably never will be known here again. Over 1,500 veterans of the Sixth Cavalry and nearly three times as many other visitors helped make up the human tout ensemble of the occasion.

The feature of the day was the address of Gen. John B. Gordon, the gallant Georgian who is near the hearts of South Carolinians. As a pasant he referred to the differencies among the people of South Carolina, and he urged them to cease all factional dissensions lest in the general disturbance they lose possession of their birthright. The people of Greenwood poured forth wholesale hospitality, and it appeared to be the chief end of the people to see that their guests were entertained. With all their endeavors, however, the crowd was by far too large to be conveniently handled.

Greenwood, regardless of a dispersion, but larger, was no stranger here today. It is said that it was procured by means of underground tunnels, which were not difficult for the weary to locate. Several Palmetto jags were having their fun to themselves during the day, and one fellow hit the blind tiger so frequently that he wanted to make mincemeat of his fellow jagers, but "got it in the neck" himself instead. The companies that were present in uniform were as follows: Capers Light Infantry, Edgefield, Capt. J. H. Tillman; Maxwell Guards, Greenville, Capt. Evans; Abbeville Rifles, Abbeville, Capt. Perrin; Electric City Guards, Augusta, Capt. Bryson.

The battle flags of the Seventh and Twenty-fourth Regiments were carried in the procession. The Sixth South Carolina Cavalry, under whose auspices the reunion was held today, was drawn from the following counties: Greenville, Laurens, Anderson, Abbeville, Edgefield, Charleston, Darlington and Chesterfield. Its commander was Col. Hugh K. Atkin, of Charleston. It was at times under the orders of Gen. M. C. Butler.

The reports of the day consisted of bicycle races and a baseball game between a picked Columbia team and a miscellaneous aggregation dubbed the Greenville team, resulting in a victory for the latter by a score of 13 to 7. The special excursion train that left Columbia at 7:30 this morning well packed was heavily reinforced on the way. About two hundred Columbians were on the train.

The speaker's stand had been very prettily decorated with evergreens and bright flowers and from the corners were suspended pictures of some of the leaders of the Confederacy. Among those who occupied seats on the stand were: Gen. Gordon, Gen. Butler, Col. V. E. McBeth, Col. James Armstrong, of Charleston; Col. James A. Hoyt, Greenville; Representative Yelldell, Edgefield; Col. L. P. Miller, Newberry; Gen. H. D. Capers, Charleston; Capt. P. R. Brooks, Columbia; Col. M. P. Carroll, of Augusta; Col. W. H. Maindin, Greenville; Col. R. G. Lamar, Capt. J. D. Brown, Capt. John Gungard, Capt. A. P. Brown, Col. A. D. Goodwin, Capt. John Bauskett, Col. F. W. McMaster, Col. Wm. Wallace, Columbia; Col. Gee, Johnstone, Newbern, and others.

Chairman T. F. Riley, of Greenwood, opened the exercises by introducing the Rev. Dr. W. M. Grier, of Due West, who offered a fervent prayer. Mr. Riley then made a few remarks and introduced Gen. M. C. Butler. This announcement evoked hearty and prolonged cheering from the immense crowd and it was several minutes before the General, mounted on a chair, could be heard. I have been commis- sioned, said he, to express to you the profound thanks and gratitude which that old regiment, the 6th South Carolina Cavalry, entertain for this hospital, generous and kind welcome on the part of the people of Greenwood. Most of us have passed the meridian which divides the line between youth and old age, and the decent to the grave, now will be accelerated by time, and in a few years no one will be left to represent that noble band of soldiers, and I feel authorized to state that this incident is the most gratifying of our civic life, and our hearts go out to you, my friends, with gratitude and thanks and we wish to invoke upon you in return for this kindness and liberality and generosity God's choicest blessings.

It has been commissioned to me also to introduce to you that distinguished soldier and statesman who is to deliver the first address. We are happy and grateful for having with us as the first speaker, one of the most brilliant of the leaders of Lee's grand, immortal legion. [Applause]. No less renowned in his civic virtues and civic honors and pursuits than he was renowned as the gallant, dashing, brilliant leader of a division in the Army of Northern Virginia. [Applause].

Gen. Butler spoke in eloquent language of the cavalry, and humorously

said that they were not altogether buttermilk rangers. I command, said he, to my friend as gallant a band of soldiers as ever fired a carbine or drew a sword, and the most distinguished honor to command it, and I can say that truer, more devoted patriotic and gallant soldiers never went into any war. Gen. Butler in introducing Gen. Gordon, called for "three rousing cheers for old Pal." Yells, courauds and farewell citizens."

CHEERING FOR GORDON.

The response that followed was of mighty volume. The wakin rang so that it seemed as if a thousand demons in hold of the bad cards. It was ear splitting, blood-freezing yell that before which men trembled in the long years ago. When the din ceased the grand old Georgian stepped to the front, mounted a chair, and began his speech, which lasted forty minutes. It was a worthy effort, full of fire, full of vim, full of eloquence, full of the warnings of an unclouded vision, pregnant with the teachings of a great heart.

Gen. Gordon began by expressing his thanks and appreciation of the reception accorded by his Confederate comrades, and Confederate sisters of South Carolina. In response to this generous reception, he would say that he would ever strive by vote and voice to promote and defend the welfare and rights of this glorious people. He said he had no prepared speech or selected subject. He was here at South Carolina's bidding to greet his old comrades, and on this birthday of a people's independence, to council with them in the interest of that people's welfare and liberties; to recall certain memories of the past, as incentives to certain duties for the future; to invoke the recollections of former struggles for the dear Confederacy as an inspiration for future services to the living republics.

The General then developed the thought that with his old comrades memories and duties should correlate in terms that war memories led to higher conceptions of the duties of peace; that the bravest and truest soldiers ought and as a rule would be the truest and best citizens. He then analyzed some of these duties and laid down as a foundation principle that next to our duty as Christians to God and the Church comes our duty as citizens to the country and its institutions.

When he came to the late war he declared that he did not share the opinions of those who left their dearest home in one section with necessary apreciation of the other section. He had no sympathy with any such divided conception or such conceptions of bigotry. There was enough of courage and devotion and sacrifice on both sides to sustain the self respects of both sections.

It was the Southern soldier upon whose shoulders rested the responsibility of leading the colonists through the wilderness for seven years to find and glorious triumph. It was a Southern pen that put in immortal words the great bill of rights which this day celebrates.

It was a Southern brain from which was born that immortal instrument the constitution of the Republic of America.

Is there not enough in all that to build up your self-respect?

But there is a thousand-fold more. In New Orleans a Southern hand lifted the banner of American freedom and bore it to victory. In the third war it was a Southern soldier who won across the burning sands of Mexico and placed the stars and stripes on the gilded turrets of Mexico's capitol.

Down through the ages, down to the late unpleasantness, was Southern patriotism, devotion and statesmanship that guided the destiny of this great republic and left it with a stamp upon its record.

Gen. Gordon paid a tribute to South Carolina for the noble way in which the people came together after the war to build up their waste places.

Are you going to teach the lesson of blotting out the sun and moon that the lesser stars may shine?

Are you going to clip the eagle's wing that the owl and the bat may the better soar?

Are you going to cut down the cedars of Lebanon that the blackjacks may grow?

Are you going, as the white race, to array your strength in bitterness and discord and depriy yourselves of the power with which the Great Jehovah has committed you in uniting races shall lay hold of the helm of this great commonwealth?

There were various negative ejaculations to these significant questions put by Gen. Gordon, and he finally said,

Am I treading on dangerous ground, when I am thinking there was a sold out, jumped out of the window?

He struck one of the panes of the sky-light and crashed through it, falling into the space two stories below, a distance of thirty-five feet.

In his descent he struck the top of the chandelier and fell upon a corner, breaking the front of oil and rolled on the floor. He was soon up again, and the butler who had come to the rescue, said to him, "What is the matter?"

Solemnly and seriously, with all the respect which these uplifted hands of mine to Heaven in token of my sincerity, I warn you against these divisions.

My countrymen, you are treading on the very brink of an abyss which is bottomless as to your future. Come back together stand to your brothers, stand to the State, bury these contemptible differences, which are unworthy of a thought as compared with the interests of the State of South Carolina.

Let brotherhood, harmony and unity prevail; let the highest thought that ever dwelt in your hearts be the control of your thoughts and your actions.

Come back to the old track where you stand when you redeem South Carolina from the foreign plunderer. Come back under the old flag and rally around it, and then when your eyes shall be turned for the last time to look upon these blue baboon skies, which a hemisphere, God! bends above you, you shall behold this glorious commonwealth, your beloved South Carolina, still erect, prosperous, proud, grand and free.

Gen. Gordon then in a beautiful way spoke of the consequent duty of the citizen, the soldier, the statesman, and patriot to do all in their power to elevate and embolden the character of a people.

He said this was especially true of the South, because in the great contest of the sixties we had been the loosing section; that it was a sad truth but a truth which every thoughtful man must recognize, that the advantages are always greater to the victors, in the estimation of mankind than they really are when measured by the infallible judgment of God or the unbiased opinion of posterity; that in the average estimation of men victory vindicates, while defeat dooms to destruction and misrepresentation.

Hence the preservation of our characters, of our manhood and womanhood, becomes a matter to us of the South of overshadowing importance. The General then asked, how are we to preserve our manhood and sustain and strengthen Southern character? In his analysis of this question Gen. Gordon showed that self-respect was the foundation of all character, and that it was essential that the self-respect of the people, and especially of the young, should be sustained and developed, and he showed how this was to be done, by stimulating a just and honorable pride in the past history and achievements of this people. The great question I want to submit to you is, what is to be done to preserve the manhood and womanhood of our country?

Gen. Gordon was interrupted as he was about to elucidate this idea, by a twitching of the throat, and he said that he wanted somebody to get him something with a little sugar in it—lots of sugar and a little whiskey.

A dozen responses were about to be made when Col. James Armstrong, who is always the right man in the right place, came forward with "little Jamaica ginger."

"Ladies and gentlemen, I drink to your health," replied Gen. Gordon, as

he accepted Col. Armstrong's substitute.

Thinking that he lingered too long and lovingly over this throat liniment, Col. Armstrong called "time" and the general had to relinquish.

Col. Armstrong, sotto voce—I hope it comes back.

After this exhilarating incident Gen. Gordon resumed his speech.

Speaking of the people of South Carolina he said they must remember that he belonged to a race of men who in all ages have been chosen for leadership in their parties. Said he:

The lion roams the forest, king of beast, because Jehovah made him king. The proud eagle soars upward on his mighty pinions toward the rising sun and follows it in its flight, because God made him king of birds.

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